

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15

EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01 /211 W
----- 072905

R 291355Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1730

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI'S LETTER TO BHUTTO

REF: NEW DELHI 6829

1. MEA (CHIB) GAVE POLCOUNSELOR COPY OF MRS. GANDHI'S LETTER TO PM BHUTTO TODAY. TEXT IS BOTH MORE AND LESS FORTHCOMING THAN LETTER AS DESCRIBED IN PRESS REPORTS (REFTEL - NOTAL). WE STRUCK BY FACT THAT LETTER WRITTEN ONLY MAY 22, FOUR DAYS AFTER TEST AND TOO LATE TO AFFECT INITIAL PAKISTANI REACTION. WE ALSO STRUCK BY DISINGENUOUS NOTE OF LETTER IN ARGUING THAT THERE ARE "NO POLITICAL OR FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THIS TEST." IF MRS. GANDHI WAS TRYING TO REALLY CONVINCE BHUTTO, AND PERHAPS SHE WAS, WE DOUBT SHE MADE MUCH PROGRESS THROUGH THIS EFFORT. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE LETTER DENIED ANY INDIAN INTEREST IN DOMINATING OR EXERCISING HEGEMONY OVER OTHER COUNTRIES WERE
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INCORRECT, ALTHOUGH WE ASSUME THE GOVT BRIEFER WHO DESCRIBED

THE LETTER MAY HAVE SAID THIS WAS WHAT INDIA WAS TRYING TO CONVEY. CHIB SAID LETTER HAD BEEN SENT TO INDIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON FOR TRANSMITTAL TO DEPARTMENT IF AMBASSADOR KAUL WISHED TO DO SO. WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR WHEN HE WILL, SO FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT.

2. QUOTE

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,

I WAS PLANNING TO WRITE TO YOU WHEN REPORTS OF YOUR RECENT STATEMENT IN LAHORE REGARDING INDIA'S PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION TEST WERE BROUGHT TO MY NOTICE. I AM SORRY THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE ASSUMED, IN SPITE OF OUR CATEGORICAL DECLARATIONS, THAT THE NUCLEAR TEST WHICH OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE CONDUCTED ENTIRELY FOR DEVELOPING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR PEACEFUL AND ECONOMIC USES, SOMEHOW POSES A THREAT TO PAKISTAN'S SECURITY.

OUR FOREIGN MINISTER, SARDAR SWARAN SINGH HAS ALREADY MADE A STATEMENT BUT I ALSO SHOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE REMAIN FULLY COMMITTED TO OUR TRADITIONAL POLICY OF DEVELOPING NUCLEAR ENERGY RESOURCES ENTIRELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THE RECENT UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT CONDUCTED BY OUR SCIENTISTS IN NO WAY ALTERS THIS POLICY. THE UNDERGROUND TEST WAS CONDUCTED IN CAREFULLY CONTROLLED CONDITIONS AND IS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP TECHNOLOGY FOR VARIOUS ECONOMIC USES NUCLEAR ENERGY. EVERY COUNTRY HAS THE RIGHT TO DEVELOP ITS NATURAL RESOURCES AND THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD CRISIS IN RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY RESOURCES HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE TAPPING OF ALL FORMS OF ENERGY RESOURCES IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SURVIVAL. INDIA HAS ADVANCED SUFFICIENTLY IN NUCLEAR RESEARCH TO DEVELOP ITS NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FOR THE UTILIZATION OF ITS INDIGENOUS RESOURCES FOR PEACEFUL AND ECONOMIC PURPOSES. WE HAVE ENTERED INTO COLLABORATION WITH SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR THE PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

I AM AWARE THAT IN POPULAR PARLANCE A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION EVOKES AN AWESOME AND HORRIFYING PICTURE. HOWEVER, THIS IS BECAUSE OUR MINDS HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED BY THE MISUSE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WEAPONS AND BY THE USE OF THESE WEAPONS IN HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI. WE IN INDIA HAVE CONDEMNED AND WILL CONTINUE TO CONDEMN MILITARY USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY AS A THREAT TO HUMANITY. HOWEVER, THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, RATHER THAN POSING A THREAT, PROVIDES A RAY
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OF HOPE FOR MANKIND, FACED AS IT IS BY THE SPECTRE OF DWINDLING ENERGY RESOURCES.

IT IS STRICTLY IN THIS CONTEXT THAT OUR SCIENTISTS HAVE LAUNCHED ON THIS EXPERIMENT. EVERY CARE AND PRECAUTION WAS TAKEN TO CONDUCT THE TEST UNDERGROUND IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PRECLUDE ANY RISK OF POLLUTION OR RADIATION HAZARDS EITHER TO OUR OWN PEOPLE OR TO THOSE IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

THERE ARE NO POLITICAL OR FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THIS

TEST. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO SETTLE ALL OUR DIFFERENCES WITH PAKISTAN PEACEFULLY THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SIMLA AGREEMENT. MOREOVER, BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE RESOLVED TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE PAST HISTORY OF CONFRONTATION AND CONFLICT AND TO WORK TO DEVELOP NORMAL RELATIONS AND ESTABLISH DURABLE PEACE. I AM SURE YOU WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE AGREEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, HAVE BEEN REACHED ON THE BASIS OF ABSOLUTE EQUALITY. THERE IS NO REASON WHATSOEVER TO GIVE UP THIS HEALTHY TREND OR FOR A CHANGE OF POLICY ON THE PART OF EITHER COUNTRY MERELY BECAUSE WE HAVE CONDUCTED A TEST FOR THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

YOU HAVE SHOWN STATESMANSHIP IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE SUB-CONTINENT. WE WELCOME THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE OFFICIALS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST.

WITH REGARDS,

YOURS SINCERELY, INDIRA GANDHI
UNQUOTE. MOYNIHAN

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To: STATE
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